

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 220849Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2512

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USUN 511

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5087

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SS, SP, MO, MR, AG, US

SUBJ: SPANISH SAHARA

REF: (A) STATE 170882; (B) MADRID 5024

1. WHEN I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER CORTINA EARLY AFTERNOON JULY 22 ON OTHER MATTERS, ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR WAS JUST EMERGING FROM CORTINA'S OFFICE. (ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR HAS SEEN CORTINA ALSO ON JULY 17 AND HAD BEEN RECEIVED BY FRANCO ON JULY 21 APPRAENTLY TO DELIVER A MESSAGE FROM BOUMEDIENNE.) I TOOK OCCASION TO ASK CORTINA IF HE COULD TELL ME ABOUT THE ALBGERIAN AMBASSADOR'S CALLS.

2. CORTINA SAID THAT ALTHOUGH HE KNEW WE THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS A MOROCCAN-ALGERIAN AGREEMENT, HE COULD TELL ME THAT ACCORDING TO THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR, NO SUCH AGREEMENT EXISTED. THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM THAT WHILE ALGERIA HAD BEEN INFORMED OF A MOROCCAN-MAUTITANIAN AGREEMENT ON THE SAHARA'S FUTURE, BOUTEFLIKA HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE AGREEMENT TO DIVIDE UP THE SAHARA BETWEEN MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA. THIS THE ALGERIANS LEARNED ABOUT
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THROUGH OTHER UNSPECIFIED, BUT APPARENTLY INTELLIGENCE,

MEANS. ACCORDING TO THE ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR, ALGERIA HAS NO TERRITORIAL CLAIMS ON THE SAHARA, BUT IT WILL NOT AGREE TO ANY PROPOSAL FOR THE SAHARA WHICH IS NOT BASED ON SELF-DETERMINATION. THE ALGERIANS ARE QUITE PREPARED TO COOPERATE FULLY IN TERMS OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NOARH AFRICAN REGION, BUT IT CAN ONLY BE IN THE CONTEXT OF SELF-DETERMINATION.

3. CORTINA EMPHASIZED THAT SPAIN WILL NOT NEGOTIATE ONLY WITH MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA. HE THOUGHT THERE WAS NO LIKELIHOOD THAT MOROCCO, MAURITANIA AND ALGERIA COULD REACH AGREEMENT AMONGST THEMSELVES, AND THERE WOULD BE A FOUR-POWER CONFERENCE UNDER UN AUSPICES.

4. FINALLY, CORTINA REITERATED STANDARD SPANISH LINE THAT IF PRESENT SITUATION ENDURES MUCH LONGER AND SHOULD DETERIORATE, SPAIN WILL PULL OUT OF SAHARA AT ONCE. AT THAT POINT, A NEW FOURTH PARTY WILL BE CREATED WHICH WILL BE THE SAHARAN PEOPLE AND WHATEVER INSTITUTIONS THERE MAY BE TO WHICH SPAIN WILL TURN OVER AUTHORITY. CORTINA STRESSED THE VERY DIFFICULT SITUATION IN WHICH SPAIN FINDS ITSELF AND HE HAD VERY LITTLE CLEAR IDEA AS TO NEXT STEPS. HE DID NOT MENTION THE POSSIBILITY OF A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING, BUT I SUPPOSE THIS CANNOT BE EXCLUDED.

5. COMMENT: IT MAY WELL BE THAT ANALYSIS IN PARA 1, REF (A) CONCERNING ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN-MAURITANIAN AGREEMENT IS CORRECT, BUT GOS REMAINS CONVINCED BASED ON RECENT INTENSIVE ACTIVITIES OF ALGERIAN AMBASSADOR HERE THAT ALGERIA HAS BASICALLY NOT CHANGED ITS POLICY REGARDING THE SAHARA. STABLER

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